



August 11, 2005

Indiana Geographic Information Council, Inc.
Indiana State Library, GIS
140 N. Senate Ave., Room 306
Indianapolis, IN 46204

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter of support regarding the 2005 statewide digital aerial orthophoto project. The City of Elkhart has used high resolution aerial photos in the past with much success and we are eagerly looking forward to the 2005 delivery date.

Recently, the City has used aerial photos to aid in the location of utilities to populate the City's Geographic Information System. This saved the City potentially thousands of dollars in hiring GPS field crews. The high resolution has now become a part of the GIS basemaps for all City departments. An extra bonus was the ability to identify fire hydrant locations, once again saving money from hiring field crews.

The City has also used aerial photos in other departments such as Planning & Zoning and Planning & Development for planning projects. The old adage "A picture is worth a thousand words" is truly accurate when a team of City employees can plot a large aerial map to plan a proposed bike route, a proposed industrial park, or plan mowing zone schedules. Other departments are beginning to see the benefits of aerial photos and are seeking ways to become more efficient using the aerial photos as a basemap in GIS projects. With this year's color aerial photos, I anticipate the number of departments wanting and needing accurate and up-to-date photos to increase.

In conclusion, I am only one of a dozen individuals looking forward to working directly with these up-to-date aerial photos.

Regards,

Matt Heineman
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Department of Public Works & Utilities